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Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 IO-13 /089 W
----------071875 220729Z /13
R 211615Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 151
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LILONGWE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 10358

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGSJB PDEV, PINT, RH, NI
SUBJECT: RHODESIA: MUGABE VISITS LAGOS

1. DAILY TIMES, AUGUST 20, REPORTS SAM MUGABE ARRIVED IN LAGOS FRIDAY, AUGUST 18 FROM LUSAKA TO CONFER WITH HEAD OF STATE OBASANJO. HE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY ZAPU SECRETARY GENERAL ENGER TEKERE, SECRETARY FOR DEFENSE JOSIAH MAJAMA TONGOGARE AND SPECIAL SECRETARY TO THE PRESIDENT EMERSON NUMANGAGWUA. IN A NEWS CONFERENCE AT THE AIRPORT ON ARRIVAL, MUGABE SAID HE HAD MET WITH NKOMO SHORTLY BEFORE LEAVING LUSAKA AND HIS VISIT TO NIGERIA WAS AT THE INVITATION OF THE FMG.

2. MUGABE REFUSED TO REVEAL THE SUBJECT OF HIS
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MEETING WITH OBASANJO. IN ANSWER TO REPORTER'S QUESTIONS, HE DENIED THAT HIS RELATIONS WITH NKOMO WERE DETERIORATING AND THAT ANY "PEACE TALKS" WERE SCHEDULED IN LUSAKA OVER THE WEEKEND TO EFFECT A RECONCILIATION.

3. ON PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF ZIMBABWEAN PROBLEM,

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MUGABE SAID HIS PARTY "WOULD EMBRACE ANY NEW PEACE MOVES DESPITE THE DISAPPOINTING OUTCOME OF THE MALTA AND DAR ES SALAAM TALKS."

4. COMMENT: OBASANJO'S PRESS SECRETARY, ALEX NWOKEDI, TOLD PAO THAT MUGABE ARRIVED FRIDAY EVENING AND LEFT LATE SATURDAY NIGHT WITH GARBA FOR LUSKA TO ATTEND MEETING OF PF'S COORDINATING COMMITTEE. WHEN MUGABE AND GARBA WERE LEAVING LUSAKA FOR MAPUTO ON SUNDAY EVENING, NWOKEDI SAID MUGABE TOLD PRESS THAT GARBA HAD NOT PARTICIPATED IN PF MEETING. MUGABE ALSO SAID THAT NIGERIANS WERE INFORMED PF DOES NOT NEED TROOPS BUT IT DOES NEED ARMS AND OTHER SUPPLIES.

5. MEA AFRICA DEPARTMENT DEPUTY DIRECTOR TAYLOR TOLD POLCOUNS THAT MEAS WAS NOT INVOLVED IN THE LAGOS MEETING (CABINET OFFICE MADE ARRANGEMENTS), WHICH INDICATES FOCUS OF ACTION WAS BETWEEN OBASANJO, GARBA AND MUGABE.
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TAGS: PDEV, PINT, RH, NI, (MUGABE, ROBERT), (TEKERE, ENGER)
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